

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

SHOWS, Ronnie (Democrat)
Representative, 4th District, Mississippi
Elected 1998 to the 106th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Moselle, Mississippi - 26 January 1947
Home: Bassfield, Mississippi
Marital status: Married (Johnnie Ruth) - 4 children
Religion: Baptist
Education: Attended Jones Junior College, 1965-6; attended Southeastern Baptist College, 1967-9; U of Southern Mississippi, B.A. 1971
Military: None
Profession: Teacher, coach
Political: Jefferson Davis County circuit clerk, 1976-80; MS Senate, 1980-88; MS District Highway Commission, 1988-99. Succeeded Rep Mike Parker (R), who retired. Defeated Delbert Hosemann (R) with 53.4% of the vote. Reelected in 2000 with 58% of the vote.

Rep Shows, a conservative, has stated that he will never switch parties like his predecessor who won four times as a Democrat and jumped to the GOP in 1995. One of a dwindling breed in the House--white Southern Democrats--Rep Shows affiliates himself with the "Blue Dog" or New Democrat coalitions of center-right Democrats. Because of his conservative opinions on social issues such as abortion and gun control, Shows is not always in agreement with the majority of his Democratic colleagues.

In the 106th Congress, urged prompt passage of the FY99 emergency supplemental, stating that he could not attempt to describe how important this money is to farm families across Mississippi. During debate on the DoD appns bill, made comments in support of the F-22. Noted that his father was captured and suffered severe medical problems during the Battle of the Bulge; suggested that the tax cut proposal provides real savings only to the wealthy and comes at a time when the VA is struggling to maintain the health care needs of veterans. Opposed the rule providing for consideration of the DoD authorization bill because of his concern for military retirees. Complained that the rule did not permit consideration of his amdt, identical to H.R. 3573, Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees. Asserted "we owe it to our military retirees who were led to believe they would receive free health care upon retirement and that their government will be there for them." Explained that his bill would make military retirees who entered the service prior to CHAMPUS eligible for health care under the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program, with the government paying the full cost of the enrollment. Said they can enroll in FEHBP, participate in CHAMPUS after they reach age 65, or remain in the TRICARE program. Acknowledged the veterans organizations that have been instrumental in crafting the legislation.

Additional: Member, Airpower Caucus.
AF Bases: None

COMMITTEES

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